

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66613

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APPROVED BY: EUR/EE:NGANDREWS

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R 042310Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 240762

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 240762 ACTION BELGRADE INFO LONDON PARIS
NOV 1ST

QUOTE

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LONDON FOR SONNENFELDT, PARIS FOR HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, YO, AU

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV PROTEST TO AUSTRIANS ON MINORITY
RIGHTS

TEHRAN FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY (STABLER)

1. IN COURSE OF CALL ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
ARMITAGE OCTOBER 31, YUGOSLAV CHARGE PETKOVIC SAID HE HAD
INSTRUCTIONS TO INFORM DEPARTMENT THAT ON OCTOBER 29 GOY
GAVE AUSTRIANS A NOTE PROTESTING AUSTRIA'S ALLEGED NON-
OBSERVANCE OF ARTICLE 7 OF 1955 TREATY ON POSITION AND
RIGHTS OF SLOVENIAN AND CROATIAN MINORITIES IN AUSTRIA.

2. PETKOVIC SAID GOY NOTE MADE THREE BASIC POINTS: (A)
THAT GOA MUST RESPECT NATIONAL RIGHTS (BILINGUAL SCHOOLS
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AND SIGNS ETC.) OF SLOVENES IN AUSTRIA; (B) THAT AUSTRIA

HAS MADE AN "ABSOLUTELY INACCURATE ESTIMATE" OF INTERNAL SITUATION IN YUGOSLAVIA AND HAS CONDUCTED HOSTILE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA; (C) THAT VALUABLE YUGUSOAV STATE ARCHIVES HELD BY AUSTRIA HAVE NOT BEEN RETURNED. PETKOVIC CLAIMED NOTE NEVERTHELESS EXPRESSED GOY'S WILLINGNESS TO REMOVE OBSTACLES TO GOOD, NEIGHBORLY RELATION.

3. PETKOVIC STRESSED THAT GOY IS NOT RPT NOT SEEKING MEDIATION OR INTERVENTION BY U.S. RATHER IT IS INFORMING

USG AND ALL OTHER GOVERNMENTS WITH WHICH IT MAINTAINS FRIENDLY RELATIONS OF FACT DEMARCHE HAS BEEN MADE.

4. ARMITAGE ASKED PETKOVIC WHY GOY PRESENTED NOTE AT THIS TIME. PETKOVIC REPLIED THAT DECISION TO SEND NOTE WAS TAKEN AT SFRY PRESIDENCY MEETING HELD ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO. HE SUGGESTED TIMING WAS RELATED TO WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS HIGHLY EXAGGERATED RECENT AUSTRIAN PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA WHICH INCLUDED SPECULATION ABOUT TITO'S HEALTH. PETKOVIC SAID YUGOSLAVS HAVE CONCLUDED THAT AUSTRIANS HAVE BEEN DRAGGING THEIR FEET ON MINORITY RIGHTS ISSUE BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE TITO'S DEMISE, AND WITH IT INTERNAL DISRUPTION, MAY BE IMMINENT. INGERSOLL UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, MINORITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE240762
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/EE:HGILMORE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740316-0914
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741173/aaaacjvy.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <23 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: YUGOSLAV PROTEST TO AUSTRIANS ON MINORITY RIGHTS
TAGS: PFOR, YO, AU
To: VIENNA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005